



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1890  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,835	06/26/2003	Atsushi Ikeno	31759-190543	4076
26694	7590	02/03/2006	EXAMINER	
VENABLE LLP			FABER, DAVID	
P.O. BOX 34385			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20045-9998			PAPER NUMBER	
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/603,835	<b>Applicant(s)</b> IKENO, ATSUSHI	
	<b>Examiner</b> David Faber	<b>Art Unit</b> 2178	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the application filed 26 June 2003.  
**This action is made Non-Final.**
2. Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, and 12 are independent claims.

### ***Priority***

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

### ***Drawings***

4. The drawings filed on 26 June 2003 have been accepted by the Examiner.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

5. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 26 June 2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892 . Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2178

7. Claims 4, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase, "...when discrimination has been made that, within a predetermined line from a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern), there is not a line coincident with another division pattern, a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern) is defined as the division line," is viewed indefinite by the Examiner. For this Office action, the Examiner views Claim 4 as if a division pattern matches a predetermined line for division, the division pattern is defined as a division line.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

8. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 18 discloses an information partitioning program, described with a code executed by a computer, is considered as a computer program. A computer program not embodied on a tangible computer readable medium is not statutory.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2178

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yanase et al (US PGPub 2001/0025288, published 10/27/2001).

As per independent Claim 1, Yanase et al discloses:

- division pattern storing means for storing therein one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be represented in a division line; and document dividing means for applying the one or more plural division patterns stored in the division pattern storing means to the inputted electronic document to divide the electronic document to plural partial documents. (FIG 7-8; Paragraph 0080, 0084: Discloses news information in an electronic mail format containing line separators composed of characters, regarded as a separator for separating articles from one another within. These character lines are predetermined rules for separating. (Paragraph 0079-0080) Paragraph 0084 discloses an example using FIG 7 containing multiple character lines where the lines are used to separate the articles from each other. In addition, other division patterns are used to separate the title and the main body of text from within each of the separated articles. FIG. 8 shows the result of the method disclosure in Paragraph 0084.)

As per dependent Claim 2, Yanase et al discloses:

- wherein the division pattern storing means stores plural division patterns for an electronic document of one kind. (Paragraph 0084: Discloses multiple division patterns that not only determine patterns to separate articles, but also patterns to separate and determine the main body text and the title of each article.)

As per dependent Claim 4, Yanase et al discloses:

- wherein the division pattern storing means stores such a division pattern (a searching division pattern) that, when discrimination has been made that, within a predetermined line from a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern), there is not a line coincident with another division pattern, a line coincident with the division pattern (a searching division pattern) is defined as the division line. (Paragraph 0084: An embodiment of a news information by electronic mail in which a document format analysis is performed according to the predetermined rules (Paragraph 0079-0083))  
When lines of the same character code appear consecutively, and match a predetermined rule, the lines are regarded as separators, and thus division lines.)

As per dependent Claim 5, Yanase et al discloses:

- labeling pattern storing means for storing therein plural labeling patterns provided with classification information pieces for defining a predetermined

character string which can specify classification; and labeling means for applying the labeling patterns stored in the labeling pattern storing means to the respective partial documents obtained by the division conducted by the document dividing means, respectively, to provide the classification information pieces. (FIG 7-8; Paragraph 0080, 0084: Discloses an embodiment of the process of a document format analysis that separates articles from each by character lines. These character lines are predetermined rules for separating articles. (Paragraphs 0079-0080) In addition, other predetermined rules determine, separate, and label the title of the article, text of the article and other information into a data structure. (Paragraphs 0079-0083, 0087) Thus, FIG 8 shows the result of labeling the title and text of the article and this information. FIG 10 discloses other information retained, labeling the information retained from the document format analysis, and stored in a data structure shown in FIG. 6, and described in Paragraph 0077.)

As per dependent Claim 6, Yanase et al disclose:

- wherein the labeling pattern storing means stores plural labeling patterns for an electronic document of one kind. (Since Paragraph 0084 discloses multiple division patterns that not only determines separate articles, but also the main body text and the title of each article. Once determining the division of the sections, the method is able to label an individual article, the text of the

article, and the title of the article. Paragraph 0081-0083 discloses example of predetermined rules used for division purposes, but also used for labeling.)

As per dependent Claim 8, Yanase et al discloses:

- wherein the labeling pattern includes the same pattern as the division pattern. (Paragraph 0079-0084: Paragraphs 0079-0083 disclose an example of predetermined rules that is determines the separation of multiple articles from each other, and able to locate the title, main text, and links. Not only the process is able to locate each of these components, these rules are also used for labeling the component explained in Paragraph 0084 and shown in Figures 8 and 10.)

As per dependent Claim 10, Yanase et al discloses:

- division pattern producing means for recognizing existence of plural lines including similar character strings in similar positions in the electronic document inputted to produce the division pattern and register the same in the division pattern storing means. (Paragraph 0084, Figs. 7-8: Paragraph 0084 discloses the example of separating two articles from each other. It is able to locate and determine the multiple line separators to break down the text, then able to read the number of space lines of broken-down sections to determine the title and text by the number of lines separating from a subsequent section. Then the title and text is paired together and viewed as



one article. FIG 7 shows the example used, with FIG 8 the result from the disclosure of Paragraph 0084.)

As per independent Claim 12, Shimada et al discloses a method:

- a document dividing step of applying one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be expressed in a division line to the electronic document inputted to divide the electronic document to plural partial documents. . (FIG 7-8; Paragraphs 0080, 0084: Discloses news information in an electronic mail format containing line separators composed of characters, regarded as a separator for separating articles from one another within. These character lines are predetermined rules for separating. (Paragraph 0079-0080) Paragraph 0084 discloses an example using FIG 7 containing multiple character lines where the lines are used to separate the articles from each other. In addition, other division patterns are used to separate the title and the main body of text from within each of the separated articles. FIG. 8 shows the result of the method disclosure in Paragraph 0084.)

As per dependent Claim 13, Claim 13 recites similar limitations as in Claim 4 and is similarly rejected under Yanase et al.

As per dependent Claim 14, Claim 14 recites similar limitations as in Claim 5 and is similarly rejected under Yanase et al.

As per dependent Claim 16, Claim 16 recites similar limitations as in Claim 10 and is similarly rejected under Yanase et al.

As per independent Claim 18, Claim 18 recites a program described with a code, which can be executed by a computer for performing similar limitations as in Claim 12 and is similarly rejected under Yanase et al.

As per dependent Claim 19, Yanase et al disclose:

- A recording medium in which the information partitioning program according to claim 18 has been recorded. (Paragraph 0128: Discloses various storage medium used for recording)

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanase et al (US PGPub 2001/0025288, published 10/27/2001).

As per dependent Claim 3, Yanase et al discloses the separating of news articles in an electronic mail format (Paragraph 0084), but fails to specifically disclose the division pattern can be applied regardless of the kind of an electronic document. However, in Paragraph 0076, Yanase et al discloses that the conversion of extracting

text from an article in printed matter into an electronic document with the use of OCR. In addition, Yanase et al discloses document format is assumed during the document format analysis (The separating of multiple articles from each other. Example disclosed in Paragraph 0084), format conversion to the specific document format can be included and executed. It was well-known to one of ordinary skill at the time of applicant's invention that an electronic document, in an Adobe PDF, containing news articles could be attracted by an OCR to be converted into a document form understandable by Yanase et al's method enabling Yanase et al's document format analysis performed to separated articles from each other using line separators, and be able to determine the title and text of the article, and labeling the title and text of the article shown in FIG 8. (Paragraph 0084)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have combined Yanase et al's method with the disclosure above since it would have provided the benefit of allowing any type of document, electronic or printed, to have extracted useful news information to the user without accessing a specific source each time.

As per dependent Claim 7, Claim 7 recites similar limitations as in Claim 3 and is rejected under rationale. Furthermore, Yanase et al's method not only is able to separate articles using character-coded line separators and able to determine the title and text of the article, but it is able label the title and text of the article shown in FIG 8 (Paragraph 0084) applied to any inputted electronic document recognized through the process disclosed in Claim 3.

13. Claims 9, 11, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanase et al (US PGPub 2001/0025288, published 10/27/2001) in further view of Kobayashi et al (US PGPub 2003/0007397, filed 5/10/2002).

As per dependent Claim 9, Yanase et al discloses their method is able to determine the inputted document is either electronic mail or printed matter, (Paragraph 0063, lines 7-11) and that the document format of news information is already determined. (Paragraph 0073, lines 5-8) However, Yanase fails to specifically disclose discriminate patterns for discriminating the kind of the electronic document inputted. On the other hand, Kobayashi et al discloses the ability to determine the format of the document by the character type of the input text data. (FIG 5; Paragraph 0106-116) Kobayashi et al's method is able to determine if the text data is in HTML format, XML format (Paragraph 0109), or an email message. (Paragraph 0111)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have combined Yanase et al's method with Kobayashi et al's method since Kobayashi's method would had made Yanase et al's method capable of unitarily processing e-mails and HTML documents, and further to provide a recording medium for use within.

As per dependent Claim 11, Yanase et al discloses receiving news by electronic mail, a plurality of articles that include a plurality of topics distributed at one time, but fails to specifically disclose that the electronic mail is a mail magazine. However, Kobayashi et al discloses an extended e-mail system of mail magazines that is capable

of transmitting the same information to multiple destinations at once in which the email contains large amount of information being advertisements and bodies of text.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have combined Yanase et al's method with Kobayashi et al's method since Kobayashi's method would had made Yanase et al's method capable of unitarily processing e-mails and HTML documents, and further to provide a recording medium for use within

As per dependent Claim 15, Yanase et al discloses a method:

- the document dividing step performs dividing to partial documents using the discriminated division patterns for document kind, and the labeling step provides the classification information pieces using the discriminated labeling patterns for the document kind. (Paragraph 0084: Discloses multiple division patterns that not only to determine and separate multiple articles from one another, but also the main body text and the title of each individual article. Once determining the division of the sections, the method is able to label an individual article, the text of the article, and the title of the article. Paragraph 0081-0083 discloses example of predetermined rules used for division purposes, but also used for labeling.)

However, Yanase et al fails to specifically disclose comprising a document kind discriminating step of discriminating the kind of the electronic document inputted. On the other hand, Kobayashi et al discloses the ability to determine the format of the document by the character type of the input text data. (FIG 5;

Paragraph 0106-116) Kobayashi et al's method is able to determine if the text data is in HTML format, XML format (Paragraph 0109), or an email message. (Paragraph 0111)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have combined Yanase et al's method with Kobayashi et al's method since Kobayashi's method would have made Yanase et al's method capable of unitarily processing e-mails and HTML documents, and further to provide a recording medium for use within.

As per dependent Claim 17, Claim 17 recites similar limitations as in Claim 11 and is similarly rejected under Yanase et al and Kobayashi et al.

### ***Conclusion***

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Numata (US Patent #5,943,669): Discloses separating documents into paragraphs and are classified.
- Tada et al (US PGPub 2003/0079183): Discloses document data being divided into separate document data.
- Shimada et al (US Patent #6,826,724): Discloses extracting document data from an imputed document, divides the data, and create one or multiple divided document data from one document data.

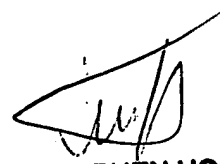
- Bickmore et al (US Patent #6,857,102): Discloses a document being converted into a list of sections and each section is elided into a separate page.
- Halahami (US PGPub 2003/0011631): Discloses a system and method for document division.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Faber whose telephone number is 571-272-2751.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Faber  
Patent Examiner  
AU 2178



**STEPHEN HONG**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER